

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 234472 TOSEC 270505

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AHERNE

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: ZAHEDI ROAST

1. SINCE YOU WILL NOT BE BACK IN TOWN, WE HAVE REGRETTED
YOUR INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ROASTING OF AMB. ZAHEDI AT
THE SAINTS AND SINNERS CLUB LUNCHEON SEPTEMBER 23. CLUB
PRESIDENT BARNEE BRESKIN HAS WRITTEN:

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

THE ROASTING OF AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI WOULD BE COMPLETE IF YOU
COULD BE WITH US. JOE SISCO INSISTED THAT I ASK YOU ONCE
AGAIN. WE SHALL MISS YOU.

MR. SECRETARY, PLEASE DROP ME A NOTE TO GIVE TO THE
AMBASSADOR SO THAT HE WILL KNOW OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE
DAY.

YOUR HUMOR IS STILL THE GREATEST AND YOUR SPEECH, WHEN YOU
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WERE THE HONOREE IS IN OUR ARCHIVES AS THE BEST EVER.

MAY I HEAR FROM YOU? BARNEE BRESKIN END TEXT.

2. IF YOU WISH TO SEND A NOTE WHICH BRESKIN COULD READ
AT THE OCCASION, THE FOLLOWING IS A SUGGESTED MESSAGE:

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. BRESKIN:

I DEEPLY REGRET THAT I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND YOUR EVENT OF
SEPTEMBER 23. I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE THEM MAKE
SHISH KEBAB OUT OF ARDESHIR ZAHEDI.

I HAVE TO BE BACK SOON ANYWAY. ARDESHIR HAS MADE ME
PROMISE TO INCLUDE MY PLANE IN THE NEXT SALE OF AIRCRAFT
TO THE SHAH.

I AM PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT MY ABSENCE FROM WASHING-
TON HAS MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO KEEP TRACK OF ARDESHIR'S
ACTIVITIES. WHO WANTS TO READ A CLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE
BRIEFING IN THE MORNING, WHEN INSTEAD, IN WASHINGTON,
YOU CAN PICK UP THE STYLE SECTION OF THE WASHINGTON
POST AND READ THE LATEST INTELLIGENCE ON ALL OF ARDESHIR'S
OVERT ACTIVITIES.

OF COURSE, EVERYONE KNOWS THAT ARDESHIR GOT THE IDEA OF
BEING A SWINGING DIPLOMAT FROM ME. IT WAS WHEN AN
IRANIAN BELLY DANCER SETTLED INTO MY LAP IN TEHRAN IN
1972 THAT HE VOLUNTEERED FOR AN OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT.

AS AMBASSADOR FROM IRAN TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE LAST
THREE YEARS, HE HAS ADDED AN EXTRA DIMENSION TO THE
SOCIAL AND DIPLOMATIC LIFE OF THE CAPITAL -- JUST AS HIS
CAVIAR HAS ADDED SOMETHING EXTRA TO THE DIMENSIONS OF
MANY OF US WHO TAKE PART IN THAT LIFE. ALONG WITH THAT
OTHER SOCIAL SUPERPOWER, ALEX ORFILA, ARDESHIR HAS
ALSO GIVEN US A NEW AND DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE THIRD
WORLD.

MORE SERIOUSLY, I THINK YOU SHOULD ALL REALIZE THAT
UNDER HIS CAREFREE AND LECHEROUS EXTERIOR, ARDESBIR
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ZAHEDI IS A MAN OF INTELLIGENCE AND PERCEPTIVITY WHO
DOES HIS JOB WELL. HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE SHAH IS
FORTUNATE IN HAVING HIM HERE IN WASHINGTON, AND WE ARE
FORTUNATE IN HAVING HERE A MAN WHO HAS SUCH A DIRECT
LINE TO THE SHAH, WHOSE COUNTRY HAS SWUNG INCREASING
WEIGHT IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE WORLD
IN RECENT YEARS.

FOR THE SAKE OF THE COMPANY AT THIS ROAST, I HOPE THAT
YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME -- AND THAT THE LUNCHEON IS CATERED
BY ARDESHIR'S CHEF. HENRY A. KISSINGER END TEXT. ROBINSON

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